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LETTERS OF WILLIAM BYRD, FIRST.

(From his letter book in the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society)

(Continued)

To ———.

Virg'a Jan'ry — 1685

S^r

My last to you by Hall was Somewhat large, therefore shall say little now, this comes to accompany Cap^t Bradly & cover the inclosed bill of Ladeing & Invoice for 100 H^{ds} of Tob'o & four of fures & skins w:^h I hope will come Safe to y^r Hands. I have charged bills of Ex^{ch} on you for 163l St'g payable to Bradly being in full of $\frac{1}{8}$ of the ship(1) Sam'll for w:^h he hath given mee a bill of Sale: doubt not but you'l See our titles made good. Hope the ship may come home in good time, although shee design'd (if you think fitt) for Holland, yett I thought good to Send you Some furs & skins by him, not knowing when I might find a better oppertunity & gues you cannot want a convenience for a small charge from y^e Wight to London, freight being now very Scarce, & Tobacco indifferent plenty though Sold hereabouts at great rates. I have endeavor'd to ship what I can forward & hope it may doe best. I hope as you are concern'd in this ship & have induced us thereto, you will take care shee bee yearly Sent away early from England, & (you need not doubt) wee will performe our part here. My Service to all friends, Ime Sorry Some of you have taken an occasion to abuse us ab^t poor Coz Grendons Estate, but you will & they too find (I hope) no reason for Such unworthy censures, tho (I thinke) wee cannot bee worse thought of, & therefore have no occasion to trouble ourselves farther. I doubt not but our innocence will Sufficently appear to any y^t will

(1) It was not unusual for wealthy Virginia planters and merchants to own ships in whole or part.

fairly question us. I am Sorry for this unpleasant digression
& wish I had not too much occasion for itt: shall therefore con-
clude wth best respects to yo^rselfe & Lady from

S^r

Yo^r fr^d & Serv^t

W B

To M p Bradly

TO WARHAM HORSMANDEN

Virg'a Jan'ry 9th 1685

Worthy S^r

I am Sorry wee could not bee So happy as to receive a letter
from you or Bro: Dan'll this year, but imagine urgent occasions
might detain you in the Country, for wee are Satisfyed from
Mess^{rs} Perry & Lane of yo^r & my Child'ns(2) healths, w^h God
continue, this is onely to acquaint you of our wellfare, though
our little Boy (Warham) & Molly have been both Sicke wth
fever & colds, but are I thanke God now Somewhat better.
I have Order'd Mess^{rs} Perry & Lane to pay what charges are
due for my Childrens Clothing Cr^d on your note to y^m Pray
present mine with my wives best respects to all our friends.
Our Blessings to our Children, & accept of our Duty's to yo^rselfe
& o^r Mother wth hearty thanks for all yo^r favo^{rs} from

Worthy S^r

Yo^r Obedient Son & Serv^t

W B

To ffather Horsmanden p Bradly

TO PERRY & LANE

Virg'a Jan'ry 9th 1685

Gen^t

My last to you was by hall who I hope is near his port by this
time, have little now to trouble you, but acquaint you of our
Wellfares, & y^t I designe to write Suddenly to you by Perrin,
a Small west country man (who comeing from Barbados) wee
bought his Cargoe, & hired his ship. Hee takes me in ab^t 30

(2) At this time William Byrd's children, William, Martha and Ur-
sula were in England to be educated.

H^d• Tob'o I hope hee will not bee long after this. I shall charge bills of Ex'ce on you for my share of his goods w:^h will come to ab^t 49 or 50 l. w:^h I hope you'l pay accordingly, ffreight is yet Scarce, Wee are in great want of y^e Culpeper, of whom as yett I hear no news. Ruddes (I suppose) will 'Saile in a moneth by whom shall Send my Invoice, not knowing yet what to ppose o^r trade being orestocked not else but with best respects take leave
Gen^t

Yo^r ffriend & Servant
W B

To P p Bradly

To MR NORTH
Virg'a 19 feb'ry 1685

S^r

This comes p Cap^t Devers in y^e America m^cchant by whom I have Sent you 30 H^ds of Tobacco, as p inclosed bill of Ladeing & Invoice may appear, I shipd likewise on board Roger Newham 51 H^ds of Tob'o & hear hee is gone without giving or leaveing mee bills of Ladeing, I designed to have consigned them to you, & therefore desire you to take care of them, inclosed is the Invoice & a note from Newham little inferior to a bill of Ladeing, by the next I designe my Invoice for Goods, but would willingly hear farther first, times being So uncertain I know not what to doe, my Service to all friends from

S^r

Yo^r friend & Servant
W B

I have charged 27l.st'g. on you p Ex'ea payable to Cap^t Devers w:^h pray pay accordingly.
To m^r North p Devers

To THOMAS BYRD
Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Dear Brother

Yo^r• by D^r Tub I rec^d & am glad to hear of y^r health & hope you will So improve yo^r time as shortly to bee in a Capacity to Serve yo^rSelfe & friends. I wrote my bro: Robinson y^t

w^t p^t of my Sist^r Rich^{ds} her Estate was due to mee should bee equally divided between yo^r Selfe Sister Mary & them, & am Sorry it was not more. My wife was deliver^d in fb^r last of a Boy dureing my being at N. Yorke where I was a great p^{tt} of last Summer. Pray remember me & my wives kind love & respects to Sister Mary & accept y^e Same yo^r selfe from

Yo^r affectionate Bro:

W B

remember mee to your Master(3) & all our fr^{ds}

To Bro: Tom p Ruds

To ——— ROBINSON

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Bro: Robinson

Yo^{rs} I rec^d & am Sorry to hear of my Sister Rich^{ds} her death, but hope it hath pleased God to translate her to a bet^ter life, what you mention ab^t y^e Small Estate I am willing to give my part to bee equally divided between my Brother Tho. Sister Mary & your selves. I was a great part of last Summer at N. Yorke, & at my returne found my wife Safely deliverd of a Boy, & are now wth my little girls (I thanke God) in good health, my wife desires to bee remembred to you my brother & all our friends & especially to my Sister Mary to whom pray give my kind love, & accept y^e Same to yo^rselfe, my dear Sister & yo^r little ones from

Yo^r Loveing Bro

W B

To Bro. Robinson p Ruds

TO MR COE

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Dear S^r

My last to you was by Hall & hope you'l excuse mee therein for goeing about to clear myselfe of those unjust censures throwne upon mee as if I injured my deceased friends reputation, or my liveing friends interest, but I hope y^e Contrary will appear. I could wish m^r North had given us an acco^t of what

(3) Thomas Byrd was then an apprentice in London.

hee had rec^d, & what remain'd yet due to him, that wee might indeavor'd with Brains if possible to make him Satisfaction. In Some letters hee & others tel' us of a lease worth 150 or 160 l. & in others they say its not worth above 100 l. So y^t wee neither know nor can guesse, what remains. I must allways acknowledge mySelfe infinitely oblidge to yo^rselfe & Lady for yo^r great kindnesse to my whole family, & heartily beg excuse for y^e trouble given you last year, being Sorry y^e buying those things for my wife b^r was So taken. I could heartily wish itt lay any way in my power to Serve you, & bee assured no man shall ever bee more ready to acknowledge himselfe

Dear S^r

Yo^r Oblidged Humble Servant

W B

Mine wth my wives best respects & Service to yo^rselfe & good Lady

There is I suppose a mistake in yo^r Acco^t Viz^t

10 yds gold Stuffe at 13s. 6d. p y^d

& an Ell of Silver Stuf pr Stays

11l. 6s. st'g.

To m^r Coe p Ruds

TO MR GOWER

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

S^r

My last I sent you by Hall, wherein I thought my Selfe oblidge to take notice on those unhappy reflections were made on mee, ab^t Coz Grendons Estate, w^h I hope you will Excuse, & consider I had too much reason for itt, but when I consider the obligations you have bestowed on mee & mine, beg pardon if I have been too Severe therein. All our friends here in Health & designe to meet Suddenly to remember you all wth the token you were pleased to Send us. Pray give my best respects & Service to all where due. Accept the Same your selfe, & if I can any way Serve you, please freely to Command

S^r

Yo^r reall friend & Servant

Wm Byrd

To m^r Gower p Ruds

TO MR RAND

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Dear S^r

Yo^{rs} by m^r Lay^efield & Mad'm Bland, I rec^d & am heartily glad to hear of yours my Sisters & yo^r little ones good health; doe returne you hearty thanks for your kindnesse to little Nutty. I was at N. Yorke a great part of last Summer on a public concerne, & at my returne found my wife Safely deliver^d of a Boy, & are both now with little Molly (I thanke God) in good health. My Lady Berkeley about a moneth Since Safely arrived, & tells mee shee was Sorry shee could not have y^e oppertunity to see you as shee came by; All our friends here in good health & give you their best respects & Service pray give mine where due, most Especially to yo^r dear Lady, Sister Betty, wth y^e little ones & accept y^e Same

Dear S^r from

Yo^r Loveing Bro. & Servant

W B

To Bro. Rand p Ruds

TO WARHAM HORSMANDEN

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Worthy S^r

I wrote to you not long Since p Bradly, have little more to adde now, but acquaint you that I rec^d yo^{rs} Since by my Lady Berkeley which gave us great Satisfaction to hear of yours & our Child'ns wellfare, though my Lady tells mee you have long Labour'd under our Essex(4) Seasoning, w:^h proved worse than a Virg'a one, I pray God Send you health, w:^h whilst you injoy, I doubt not yo^r care over my poor little ones to whom, pray give our Blessings; before y^e rec^t of yo^{rs} I wrote to m^r Perry & Lane, to reimburse you the Charge of them. Next year I hope (God willing) to See you in England; My Wive & little ones (I

(4) This refers to Essex, Eng., where many of Byrd's relations and friends lived. Warham Horsmanden then lived at Purtleigh in that county.

thanke God) in health, All give you their Duty, & Service to all
where due from

Worthy S^r
Yo^r Obedient Son & Serv^t
W B

To ffather Horsmanden p Ruds

TO MR NORTH (?)
Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

S^r

My last to you was p Devers, wherein I gave you an Acco^t of
w^t Tob'o Sent p him & of 51 p Newham who gave us no bills of
Ladeing. Hope all may come Safe to Hand, I expected to have
Seen your Acco^t ere this, but p y^e Culpeper recd nothing from
you but a letter of y^e old Strain to W R & Selfe ab^t [Grendons]
Estate, though I thinke you have not So much reason to blame
us who have had a great deale of trouble, wth no profit, & can
assure you none could have taken more pains to get you Satis-
fied without trouble, then wee have done. Brains hath often
promised us to pay you the Ballance, hee talks of comeing
herewith, & hath promised to give us under his hand to per-
forme it ere hee Sails, I wish wee had done with it; I have ven-
tured to Send an Invoice for Goods (tho I was very unwilling
till I might See my Acco^t) but there will bee never another ship
Saile after this in any reasonable time, therefore Send it now
that you might have time to provide. If Tobacco will doe
nothing, I desire you to abate a good part of y^e Eng^l. goods;
Yo^r Brandy & powder last year cheaper yⁿ others, but the rest
generally dearer. Gun Locks cost mee but 2s. 6d. from Mess^{rs}
Perry & Lane, & prove well, How yo^r Upholstry proves I have
not heard, the Same was y^e greatest cheat imaginable know not
what to doe with itt, Yo^r Indian Hoes too Small, they would
not Sell, Have not no p^ticular of y^e Duffields cr^d the [illegible]
being just now gone out; I hope you will Acco^t with Bradly &
if anything comes due to mee, you will recieve it. Wee expect
him a first ship, & therefore (if no ill Accident) intervene desire
you to put my Goods on board him, shall not trouble you farther

at present but with best respects & Service to yo^r Selfe & Lady
take leave

Yu^r friend & Servant

Wm B

M^r Brain hath just now given us his obligation to pay you what
your due from Coz Grendons Estate.

(To m^r North?)

TO PERRY & LANE

Virg'a March y^e 8th 1685

Gen^t

I had not an opportunity to write to you by the Westcountry man but Suppose m^r P^r Perry sent you a bill of Ladeing for 29 H^{ds} of Tobacco I had on board, this I hope will come Safe to hand by Cap^t Ruds wth 99 H^{ds} of Tobacco & 2 of fures & Skins, there is too many Raccoons, hope they may prove better yⁿ the former. I had these by mee, thinke not to purchase any more hereafter then I am forced to; others buying them, I must not altogether refuse; Traders(5) are all now out, hope p y^e Culpeper to Send you Some Bever c'ta if Cap^t Morgan pleases to take itt in, w^h is a great question, for I find when hee can get his Loading otherways hee will take in none for his old freighters the matter is not much. Wee must provide better for our Selves; Inclosed is our Invoice for Goods, w^h (if Tob'o will doe any thing) I desire p y^e first, should have been glad to know whither wee might Expect any Negro's or not, that wee might (if y^r project had fail^d have provid'd otherwise; I am Sorry you did not Send mee our apprentice Boy, they may (as I am confidently informed) bee had from y^e Hospitall at any time, Such as are very capable of our businesse, Ime Sure m^r Paggens concerne is Supplied that way—Now I am quite destitute, my Boy being just free, therefore desire you by any means to Send mee one p y^e first opportunity by Cap^t Ruds is Sent a patterne for 6 Mill Saws w^h desire may bee Sent in p first conveniency exactly according to paterne.

(5) This refers to the Indian traders who made long trips into the western country.

I have Sent for my Indian trucke by guesse, not yet knowing how the last proved; the trade is overstocked, one indeavoring to eat out another, is y^e reason of those Commoditys (as well as others) So much trash is Sent home, how to prevent itt yett know nott, shall not trouble you farther but with best respects take Leave

Gen

Yo^r frd & Serv^t

W B

To P p Ruds

Eight H^{ds} of y^e Tob'o is Sweet Scented w:^h they are you will See p y^e Invoice.

TO PERRY & LANE

Virg'a March y^e 11th 1685

Gen^t

This leaves onely to accompany Cap^t Williams have lately wrote at large p Ruds have little more to adde. I am glad wee answer'd yo^r Expectation in designeing Wynne for England, hope hee is long since Safely arrived & by this time Saild to Barbados, My Service to all friends

Gen^t

Yo^r frd & Serv^t

W B

To P p Williams

To _____

Virg'a May y^e 10th 1686

Gen^t

Cap^t Morgan went from towne y^e day before I got downe but hope you will recieve by him 92 H^{ds} of Tobacco & one of furs, as p bill of Ladeing formerly Sent you allso 30 H^{ds} of Tobacco p Cap^t Gesther who I hope by this time is Saild, wee were forced for want of freight to Send our Tob'o downe to Kiquotan, where m^e Willson hath promised to take our bills of Ladeing, My traders have all mett with ill Successe, two of y^m

I heare are kill^d above 400 miles of, & the rest have lost all their Horses, & forced to leave their goods abroad, hope within this fortnight they will bring y^m in, then you shall have Some by the first oppertunity w^h I guesse may bee Cap^t Hasted who comes about from Rapahanocke to take in Tobacco here, there is like to bee little Bever this year, Scarce any to bee bought among the Indians wee trade with. Looking over the Copy of my Invoice I find no Guns, powder Cta. mention'd; If there is none in y^e Invoice, pray Send mee as on the other Side, as allso Some few things more there mention'd. Cotton is better liked then y^e plains w^h is much complained of, as allso y^e Kettles, w^h (they say) had holes in them. You shall hear farther ere long; Could wish James wth y^e Negro's might have been Somewhat earlier for I Suppose our parts will be Supplied long ere hee arrives but that cannot now bee hope, Not else but wish you all Happinesse I remain

Gen^t

Yo^r frd & Serv^t

W B

I have lately charged Severall considerable bills of Ex^{'ea} on you Viz^t 6 Col'o Cole to my L^d Effingham 11 l. 4s. to m^r Audito^r 124 l., to m^r Hartwell a bill for 48 l. 18s. 6d. w^h I desire you to pay accordingly.

(To be continued)